

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PRIVILEGE AND HONOR OF A LIFETIME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KLEIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank all of my colleagues here in the House and especially my constituents back home in south Florida.

The opportunity to serve in this body has been the privilege and honor of a lifetime. I truly have been honored and feel honored to have been entrusted with the responsibility of fighting for families, businesses, seniors, and veterans in our community every single day.

And fight we did. When I came in 4 years ago, we were challenged with a war; we were challenged with a lot of other things. And as those years have passed, there have been new challenges, economy and others.

Together we fought to take on skyrocketing homeowners' insurance costs in Florida and other places. We wrote a commonsense solution that makes insurance look and work like it was supposed to. It wasn't easy, but we brought together every single member of Florida's delegation, Republican and Democrat alike, as well as allies from around the country and passed the Homeowners' Defense Act in a very bipartisan way. I am very proud of that.

We also fought to deliver on a campaign promise in my first race to close the Medicare part D doughnut hole, something that is so significant to so many seniors in my community. Our seniors should never have to make the choice between food and medicine. And because we shall and will bring down the cost of prescription drugs, many in our community will no longer have to.

We stood up for our Nation's veterans, something that is a prized responsibility that every American shares in, because I believe it is our responsibility to fight for those who have fought for us. We passed the biggest increase in VA history to make sure that our servicemembers have access to everything that they need. And we turned local ideas from our Palm Beach and Broward County veterans advisory boards into the law of the land.

But we didn't stop there. We took on energy and the recognition that there is a national security threat of an energy policy that continues to support Middle East rogue countries, in particular Iran. I helped work with others in writing and passing the toughest sanctions in history, because we cannot allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon, not on our watch and certainly not on our dime.

We tackled health care and equal pay for women. We expended Pell Grants so that every child and every student has a right to go to college and help create a workforce that will compete worldwide. We passed an innovative and forward-looking energy plan to end our dependence on foreign oil. But most of all, many of us worked together to do what is best for our community.

Some might disagree with any one policy; but I think at the end, each of us in this Chamber knows that we have a responsibility to our country, we believe in our country, and we try to do the right things.

Madam Speaker, my colleagues and south Floridians who are watching today, I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving me this privilege. Choosing public service isn't always easy. There are bad headlines and tough attacks and long weeks away from your family, and our families truly make the greatest sacrifice. But it is worth every one of those sacrifices for the opportunity to make our country better for our children and our grandchildren than it was for us.

This is the American Dream, and that is what I fought for and many of us fight for every single day at home at here and in town here. When I first came to this historic U.S. Capitol building, a very wise colleague said to me—and it stuck with me to this very moment—look up at the Capitol dome at nighttime. Look at it when we are working late. You see the light at the top and a beautiful dome.

And I look up and I see that every time I am here in the evening, and I see that magnificent dome against the dark sky. And I think about the great figures that have passed through in time here. Most names we will never know, but every one of them was truly just passing through, whether here for 2 years, or 10 years or 20 years. Every one had the same goal to make this country a little better place.

My colleague said to me, if you look up at that dome at one point and you aren't inspired, then it's time to go home. Well, certainly I have been inspired every day I have been here and continue to be inspired, and he was right. The opportunity to serve our community in these hallowed Halls does inspire me, and I hope it continues to inspire every single other person and the next generation of leaders who come into this Chamber.

So I want to thank all of you. Thank you for allowing us to be here. Thank you for the privilege of serving, and I look forward to being part of our community and continue to work on behalf of it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DEDICATION OF LONG BEACH ROSIE THE RIVETER PARK AND INTERPRETIVE CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RICHARDSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the dedication of the Long Beach Rosie the Riveter Park and Interpretive Center. This launch is going to be next Saturday on December 11, and it's going to be a historic occasion, not just for Long Beach, not just for California, but for the Nation. Let me tell you why I would take 5 minutes out of our time to talk about this.

Back in World War II, from 1942 to 1945, we had 6 million brave women, women who stepped forward, who helped us as a Nation to be able to help us to really move forward, to keep the economy going and to really begin to enter into a workforce that they had never been a part of before.

In my own area, 175,000 women bravely worked and led the way. They were really trail blazers, and they worked at the Douglas Aircraft Plant where now we build the very famous C-17.

When you consider a lot of the Rosie Riveters, on average they are about 85 years old. So it's important for us now more than ever to really acknowledge them and to thank them for their service. When we talk about the work that they did and how they supported the United States, they deserve our honor and our respect.

This Long Beach site includes an interactive display of women, Air Force Service Pilots, who were known as WASPs at that time. These women transported the airplanes. They assembled them. They actually flew them to the places where they were needed the most. Because of their efforts, they were able to produce—imagine, women—300,000 airports, 102,000 armored vehicles, 77,000 ships, 20 million small arms, 40 million bullets, and 6 million tons of bombs.

They were as much a part of our success and freedom for people all over the world, the women, the Rosie the Riveters, as were all of the veterans who also served. We will have in this area, not only a park and interactive center, but also a history and the names and telling of the work that these fine women did. There will be a rose-colored walking path, circles around that park area, etched with the timeline of all of the work that these ladies incredibly performed.

Along the pathway, we will have stopping points where there will be